

SPEAKER WITHEM: All in favor say aye. Opposed. They are adopted. The first amendment.

CLERK: The first amendment I have is Senator Bernard-Stevens to LB 647. It is printed, Senator, on page 475. He would like to withdraw, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay, it is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator McKenzie would move to amend with AM3825. (See page 1279 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. You should have this amendment handed out before you, and I guess the first thing I should say is I told you in first round of debate that we did not need the A bill. However, in conversations with Senator Moore and with the department since that time, it is their feeling that, in fact, yes, for this year they could handle those costs, but would most likely come back next year for the appropriation at the state department consultant's position. So this amendment just reinstates the language we eliminated by indefinitely postponing the A bill. It is \$50,000 this year and \$43,000 next year. I apologize for misleading the body on General File in terms of whether or not this additional appropriation was needed, and would answer any questions you might have.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is on.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment is very frustrating to me, and I know Senator...it is frustrating to Senator McKenzie as well, and I hope someone in the Department of Education is listening, and they, in the next four minutes, get down here and state what their real intent is. Otherwise this bill may not, may not move today, and that is unfortunate because I am supportive of the bill. To bring the body up-to-date, at least to review a little bit on 647, Senator McKenzie came back and made a substantial amendment that really cut down what the amount of direction that she wanted to go, and she took as much as she could get, and that was very, very thoughtful, and very good on her part, and I commend her for it, and I certainly supported the intent of the original bill, and